

LOG OF MEETING

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER MARY SHEILA GALL

SUBJECT: Fuse Burn Time

DATE OF MEETING: January 18, 1996

PLACE: CPSC Headquarters/Room 714

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Patsy Semple

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COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Commissioner Mary Sheila Gall  
Dennis Wilson  
Sam Hall

Patsy Semple  
David Schmeltzer

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Richard Sheilds  
John A. Conkling  
Jerry Bostocky  
John D. Rogers

Elliot Belilos  
Bruce Zoldan  
Charles Shivery

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

John Rogers, Executive Director of AFL provided an overview of his organization's growth in fireworks testing (50%) and membership (19%).

The percentage of passing products has increased from 62% to 67%. The main problem with failures is still fuse burn time (41% of all failures). This figure is consistent with CPSC findings.

AFL has again petitioned CPSC to change the regulation on fuse burn time from 3-6 seconds to 3-9 seconds. The first petition was denied because it did not include sufficient Human Factors data to support this request. As a result, AFL conducted a study, (with the guidance of CPS Human Factors staff) to support it's present request to change the regulation.

The purpose of this meeting was to ask the Commissioner to consider changing the current enforcement policy. AFL feels that Compliance has sufficient information/experience regarding the safety effects of changing fuse burn time to 3-9 seconds to grant this request. With an official change in enforcement policy, industry would be able change its manufacturing practices to reflect the increased margin for fuse burn time in their upcoming manufacturing season. A change in the rule would take over a year after the petition is granted and the pending petition will not even be scheduled for Commission consideration before April 1996. Compliance has used it's enforcement discretion to allow products with a longer fuse burn time (2-8 seconds) to enter the market.

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared

No Mfrs/Prvtblrs or  
Products Identified

2-1-96